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A true Copie of the

SPEECH,

Made

By The HONOURABLE

DENZELL HOLLES,

Esquire,

At a Conference by a Committee of both Houses of Parliament in the Painted Chamber:

Concerning the Protestation fram'd by the House of Commons, which was solemnly made by every member of the same.

Wherein is set forth the *Protestation* it selfe, and the reasons inducing them to make it; Together with their desire, that the Lords would concurre with them in the same zeal and affection for the publick safety.

With an explanation upon some doubts made upon the said Protestation.

LONDON.
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SPEECH

A Speech made by the Honourable DENZELL HOLLES, Esquire, at a Conference by a Committee of both Houses of Parliament in the painted Chamber, *May* 4. 1641. in the presenting of the Protestation.

My Lords,

THe Knights, Citizens and Burgesses of the House of Commons, having taken into their serious consideration the present estate and condition of this Kingdome, they find it surrounded with variety of pernitious and destructive designes, practices, and plots against the well-being of it, nay, the very being of it, and some of these designes hatched within our owne bowels, and, viper-like, working our destruction.

They finde Jesuites and Priests conspiring with ill Ministers of State to destroy our Religion: they find ill Ministers conjoyned together to subvert our Lawes and Liberties.

They find obstructions of Justice, which is the life bloud of every State, and (having a free passage from the Soveraigne Power, where it is primarily

marily ſeated, as the life bloud in the heart, and thence derived through the ſeverall Judicatories, as through ſo many veines, into all the parts of this great collective Body) doth give warmth and motion to every part and member, which is nouriſhed and enlivened by it: but being once precluded, ſtopped, and ſeared up, as the particular muſt of neceſſity faint and languiſh, ſo muſt the whole frame of Government bee diſſolved: and conſequently Soveraignty it ſelfe, which as the heart in the body, is *Primum vivens, & ultimum moriens*, muſt dye and periſh in the generall diſſolution, and all things returne, as in the beginning, *in antiquum Chaos*.

They find the propriety of the ſubject invaded and violated, his eſtate rent from him by illegall Taxations, Impoſitions, Monopolies and Projects (almoſt upon every thing which is for the uſe of man) not onely upon ſuperfluities, but neceſſaries; and this to enrich the vermine and caterpillers of the Land, and to impoveriſh the good ſubjects, to take the meate from the children, and give it to dogges.

My Lords, If we find theſe things ſo, wee muſt conceive, they muſt bee ill counſels which have brought us into this condition: Theſe counſels have put all into a combuſtion, have diſcouraged the hearts of all true Engliſh men, and have brought two Armies into our bowels, which (as the Vulture upon *Prometheus*) eate through our ſides, and gnaw our very hearts.

Hinc

Hinc dolor: ſed unde medicina?

Heretofore Parliaments were the *Catholicon*, the Balme of Gilead which healed our wounds, reſtored our Spirits, and made up all the breaches of the Land; But of late yeeres they have beene like the Fig-tree in the Goſpel, without efficacy, without fruit, onely deſtructive to the particular members, who diſcharge their duties and conſciences, no way beneficiall to the Commonwealth; *Nobis exitiabile, nec Reipub. profuturum*, as he ſaid in *Tacitus*; commonly taken away, as *Elias* was, with a whirle-winde, never coming to any maturity, or to their naturall end; whereas they ſhould bee like that bleſſed old man, who dyeth (*plenus dierum*) in a full age, after hee hath fought a good fight, and overcome all his enemies; as the ſhock of wheat which cometh in in due ſeaſon, to fill our Granaries with Corne, uphold our lives with the ſtaffe of bread.

For, Parliaments are our *panis quotidianus*, our true bread; all other wayes are but *Quelques choſes*, which yeeld no true nouriſhment, breede no good bloud.

This very Parliament which hath ſate ſo long, hath all this while but beaten the ayre, and ſtriven againſt the ſtreame; for I may truely ſay, winde and tide have ſtill been againſt us.

The ſame ill counſels which firſt raiſed the ſtorme, which almoſt ſhipwrackt the Commonwealth, do ſtill continue, they blow ſtrong like the Eaſt-wind that brought the Locuſts over the land.

Theſe

Theſe counſels croſſe our deſignes, caſt difficulties in our way, hinder our proceedings, and make all that we doe to be fruitleſſe and ineffectuall; they make us to bee not maſters of our buſineſſe, and ſo not maſters of money, which hath been the great buſineſſe of this Parliament, that we might pay the Armies according to our promiſes and engagements.

For, (My Lords) our not effecting of the good things which wee had undertaken for the good of the Church and Common-wealth, hath wounded our reputation, and taken off from our credit.

Is it not time then (my Lords) that wee ſhould unite and concentrate our ſelves in regard of this *Antiperiſtaſis* and *circumvallation* of hurtfull and malitious intentions and practices againſt us? (My Lords) it is moſt agreeable to nature, and I am ſure, moſt agreeable to reaſon, in reſpect of the preſent conjuncture of our affaires: for one maine engine by which our enemies work our miſchiefe, is by infuſing an opinion and belief into the world, that wee are not united amongſt our ſelves; but that, like *Sampſons* Foxes, we draw ſeverall waies, and tend to ſeverall ends.

To defeate then the counſels of theſe *Achitophels*, which would involve us, our Religion, our King, our Lawes, our Liberties, all that can bee neere and deare unto an honeſt ſoule, in one univerſall and generall deſolation; to defeate (I ſay) the counſels of ſuch *Achitophels*, the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes of the Houſe of Commons

(knowing

(knowing themſelves to bee ſpecially intruſted with the preſervation of the whole, and in their conſciences perſwaded that the dangers are ſo imminent that they will admit of no delay) have thought fit to declare their united affections, by entring into an Aſſociation amongſt themſelves, and by making a ſolemne Proteſtation and Vow unto their God, that they will unanimouſly endevour to oppoſe and prevent the counſels, and the Counſellors which have brought upon us all theſe miſeries, and feares of greater; to prevent the ends, and bring the Authors of them to condign puniſhment, and thereby diſcharge themſelves both before God and man.

The Proteſtation your Lordſhips ſhall have read unto you, together with the grounds and reaſons which have induced the Houſe of Commons to make it, which are prefixed before it by way of Preamble.

The PREAMBLE.

WEe the Knights, Citizens, and Burgeſſes of the Commons houſe in Parliament, finding, to the great griefe of our hearts, that the deſignes of the Prieſts and Jeſuites, and other Adherents to the See of *Rome*, have of late beene more boldly and frequently put in practice then formerly, to the undermining and danger of the ruine of the true reformed Proteſtant Religion in His

Majesties Dominions established: And finding also that there have beene, and having just cause to suspect that there still are, even during this sitting in Parliament, indeavours to subvert the fundamentall Lawes of England and Ireland, and to introduce the exercise of an Arbitrary and Tyrannicall Government, by most pernicious and wicked Counsels, Practices, Plots, and Conspiracies: And that the long intermission, and unhappy breach of Parliaments hath occasioned many illegall Taxations, whereupon the Subject hath been prosecuted and grieved: And that divers Innovations and Superstitions have beene brought into the Church; multitudes driven out of His Majesties Dominions, Jealousies raised and fomented betwixt the King and His people, a Popish Army levied in Ireland, and two Armies brought into the bowels of this Kingdome, to the hazzard of His Majesties Royall Person, the consumption of the Revenues of the Crowne, and Treasure of this Kingdome: And lastly, finding great cause of Jealousie, that indeavours have been, and are used to bring the English Army into a misunderstanding of this Parliament, thereby to incline that Army, with force to bring to passe those wicked Counsels, Have therefore thought good to joyne our selves in a Declaration of our united affections and resolutions, and to make this ensuing Protestation.

The PROTESTATION.

I A. B. *doe in the presence of Almighty God promise, vow, and protest to maintaine and defend, as farre as lawfully I may, with my life, power, and estate, the true Reformed Protestant Religion expressed in the Doctrine of the Church of England, against all Popery and Popish Innovations within this Realme, contrary to the same Doctrine; and according to the duty of my Allegeance, His Majesties Royall Person, Honour, and Estate; As also the Power and Priviledges of Parliament; The lawfull Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and every person that maketh this Protestation, in whatsoever hee shall doe in the lawfull pursuance of the same. And to my power, and as farre as lawfully I may, I will oppose, and by all good wayes and meanes indeavour to bring to condigne punishment, all such as shall either by Force, Practice, Counsels, Plots, Conspiracies, or otherwise, doe any thing to the contrary of any thing in this present Protestation contained. And further, that I shall in all just and honourable wayes indeavour to preserve the Union and Peace between the three Kingdomes of England, Scotland, and Ireland; And neither for hope, feare, nor other respect, shall relinquish this Promise, Vow, and Protestation.*

NOte, That becauſe ſome doubts were raiſed by ſeverall perſons out of the Commons Houſe, concerning the meaning of theſe words contained in the Proteſtation lately made by the Members of that Houſe, *viz. The true Reformed Proteſtant Religion, expreſſed in the Doctrine of the Church of England againſt all Popery and Popiſh Innovations within this Realme, contrary to the ſame Doctrine*; The Houſe of Commons did declare, That by thoſe words, was and is meant only the publick Doctrine profeſſed in the ſaid Church, ſo farre as it is oppoſite to Popery and Popiſh Innovations; And that the ſaid words are not to be extended to the maintaining of any forme of Worſhip, Diſcipline, or Government, nor of any Rites or Ceremonies of the Church of England.

MY Lords, The Houſe of Commons have commanded me to preſent unto your Lordſhips this Proteſtation: Every member in that Houſe hath made it, not one refuſing it; and they have ſent it unto your Lordſhips, with an aſſurance of your Lordſhips concurrence in the ſame zeale and affection for the publick ſafety. And it is their deſire your Lordſhips would likewiſe make the ſame Proteſtation, which I humbly leave to your Lordſhips wiſdomes.

Directions

Directions for more orderly making of the foreſaid Proteſtation.

IT is thought fit that the Proteſtation which the Parliament lately made be taken by the Citie of London, in the ſeverall Pariſh Churches, in the afternoon of ſome Lords day, after Sermon, before the Congregation bee diſſolved, by all Maſters of Families, their ſons, and men-ſervants, in manner and forme following, *viz.*

Firſt, That forthwith notice of this intention bee given to the Miniſter, Church-wardens, and ſome other meet perſons of each Pariſh in *London*, Liberties, and adjacent Pariſhes, and ſome of them to give notice to the reſt of the Pariſhioners.

Secondly, That the Miniſter be entreated (if he pleaſe) to acquaint his Pariſh in his Sermon, either forenoon or afternoon, with the nature of the buſineſſe, more or leſſe, as hee ſhall think fit, for the better and more ſolemne taking of the ſaid Proteſtation; or if the Miniſter refuſe it, that ſome other bee intreated to preach that will promote the buſineſſe; or if neither of theſe may bee had, that ſome other convenient courſe bee taken by ſome well affected to the buſineſſe, to ſtay the Pariſh, and communicate the matter to them.

Thirdly, That the Miniſter or Miniſters of eve-

ry

ry Congregation first take it in his or their owne person, reading the said Protestation in so distinct a voyce, that all present may conveniently hear it, and that all the Assembly present doe make the same Protestation distinctly after this manner, every man taking this Protestation into his hand.

I A. B. *doe in the presence of Almighty God freely and heartily promise, vow, and protest the same which the leading person took, naming the person.*

Fourthly, That there be a Register Book wherein every man taking this vow or Protestation subscribe his name, with his owne hand or mark, and that the names bee taken of such as doe refuse the same.

Fifthly, That all the Parishioners abovesaid, whether in Towne, or out of Towne, be earnestly requested to bee present at their owne Parish Church in the afternoon of that Lords day whereon it shall be taken, that every man may take it in their owne place; and if any bee necessarily absent, that they may bee desired to take it the next Lords day after, or so soon as may bee with convenience.

Sixthly, and lastly, That all whom it doth not immediately concerne, bee earnestly requested to depart.

FINIS.

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